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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

GOOGLE LLC

Plaintiff,

vs.

SONOS, INC.

Defendant

CASE NO. 3:20-cv-06754-WHA
Related to CASE NO. 3:21-cv-07559-WHA

**GOOGLE LLC'S ADMINISTRATIVE
MOTION TO FILE UNDER SEAL
PORTIONS OF ITS OPPOSITION TO
SONOS, INC.'S MOTION TO REALIGN
THE PARTIES**

1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 Pursuant to Civil Local Rules 7-11 and 79-5, Plaintiff Google LLC (“Google”) hereby
 3 requests to file under seal portions of its Opposition to Sonos, Inc.’s Motion to Realign the Parties
 4 (“Opposition”). Specifically, Google requests an order granting leave to file under seal the portions
 5 of the documents listed below:

Document	Portions to Be Filed Under Seal	Designating Party
Google’s Opposition	Portions highlighted in green	Google
Exhibit 1 to the Declaration of Jocelyn Ma in Support of Google’s Opposition (“Exhibit 1”)	Entire document	Google

11 **II. LEGAL STANDARD**

12 Civil Local Rule 79-5(c) provides that a party seeking to file its own documents under seal
 13 must file an administrative motion that articulates the applicable legal standard and reasons for
 14 keeping a document under seal, includes evidentiary support from a declaration where necessary,
 15 and provides a proposed order that is narrowly tailored to seal only the sealable material.

16 “Historically, courts have recognized a ‘general right to inspect and copy public records and
 17 documents, including judicial records and documents.’” *Kamakana v. City & Cty. of Honolulu*, 447
 18 F.3d 1172, 1178 (9th Cir. 2006) (quoting *Nixon v. Warner Commc’ns, Inc.*, 435 U.S. 589, 597 &
 19 n.7 (1978)). Accordingly, when considering a sealing request, “a ‘strong presumption in favor of
 20 access’ is the starting point.” *Id.* (quoting *Foltz v. State Farm Mutual Auto. Insurance Company*,
 21 331 F.3d 1122, 1135 (9th Cir. 2003)).

22 The Ninth Circuit has recognized that two different standards may apply to a request to seal
 23 a document – namely the “compelling reasons” standard or the “good cause” standard. *Blessing v. Plex Sys., Inc.*, No. 21-CV-05951-PJH, 2021 WL 6064006, at *12 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 22, 2021) (citing
 24 *Ctr. For Auto Safety v. Chrysler Grp., LLC*, 809 F.3d 1092, 1096-97 (9th Cir. 2016)). “A
 25 particularized showing of ‘good cause’ under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c) . . . suffices to
 26 warrant sealing in connection with a non-dispositive motion.” *Bronson v. Samsung Elecs. Am., Inc.*,
 27 No. C 18-02300 WHA, 2019 WL 7810811, at *1 (N.D. Cal. May 28, 2019) (quoting *Kamakana*,

1 447 F.3d at 1178-79). Because a motion to realign the parties a “non-dispositive filing[],” the good
 2 cause standard applies here. *See also Rimini St., Inc. v. Oracle In'l Corp.*, No.
 3 214CV01699LRHDJA, 2021 WL 4037482, at *2 (D. Nev. Sept. 2, 2021) (sealing motion to realign
 4 parties because “with non-dispositive motions, [the] presumption is automatically overcome by a
 5 showing that the material to be filed under seal is being done so pursuant to a valid protective
 6 order”).

7 **III. THE COURT SHOULD SEAL GOOGLE’S CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

8 Courts have repeatedly found it appropriate to seal documents that contain “business
 9 information that might harm a litigant’s competitive standing.” *Nixon*, 435 U.S. at 589-99. Material
 10 that would disclose “sources of business information that might harm a litigant’s competitive
 11 standing” meets even the higher “compelling reasons” standard. *Id.* at 598 (1978).

12 The portions of Google’s Opposition highlighted in green and Exhibit 1 contain information
 13 about a confidential, non-public, and/or unexecuted agreements between Google and Sonos that
 14 Google has designated “CONFIDENTIAL” under the Stipulated Protective Order. Dkt. 94;
 15 Declaration of Lana Robins (“Robins Decl.”) ¶ 4. Courts routinely find that such information meets
 16 the “compelling interest” standard. *See, e.g., Elec. Arts, Inc. v. U.S. Dist. Ct. (In re Elec. Arts, Inc.)*,
 17 298 F. App’x 568, 569 (9th Cir. 2008) (finding compelling reasons warranted sealing licensing
 18 agreement terms as trade secrets). Public disclosure of this information would harm Google’s
 19 competitive standing in future negotiations by allowing competitors access to confidential
 20 information that Google does not have similar access to about its competitors. Robins Decl. ¶ 4.
 21 *See In re Qualcomm Litig.*, No. 3:17-CV-0108-GPC-MDD, 2018 WL 6252523, at *2 (S.D. Cal.
 22 May 9, 2018) (sealing information because disclosure could harm the party “in future negotiations
 23 with existing customers, third-parties, and other entities with whom they do business”); *Huawei
 24 Techs., Co. v. Samsung Elecs. Co.*, No. 3:16-cv-02787-WHO, Dkt. No. 446, at 19 (N.D. Cal. Jan.
 25 30, 2019) (sealing confidential sales data because “disclosure would harm their competitive standing
 26 by giving competitors insight they do not have”). A less restrictive alternative than sealing these
 27 exhibits would not be sufficient because the information sought to be sealed is Google’s proprietary
 28

1 and confidential business information but is integral to Google's Opposition. *Id.* Thus, Google has
2 good cause—and compelling reasons—to keep such information under seal.

3 **IV. CONCLUSION**

4 For the foregoing reasons, Google respectfully requests that the Court grant Google's
5 Administrative Motion to File Portions of its Opposition to Sonos, Inc.'s Motion to Realign the
6 Parties Under Seal.

7
8
9 DATED: February 21, 2023

10 QUINN EMANUEL URQUHART & SULLIVAN,
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22 *Attorneys for GOOGLE LLC*

1 **ATTESTATION**

2 Pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Local Rule 5-1, I hereby certify that,
3 on February 21, 2023, all counsel of record who have appeared in this case are being served with a
4 copy of the foregoing via the Court's CM/ECF system and email.

5
6 DATED: February 21, 2023

7 By: /s/ Charles K. Verhoeven
8 Charles K. Verhoeven

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